



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,246	12/08/2003	Russell L. Holden	LOT920030051US1	2507

23550 7590 01/11/2008
HOFFMAN WARNICK & D'ALESSANDRO, LLC
75 STATE STREET
14TH FLOOR
ALBANY, NY 12207

EXAMINER

JEAN, FRANTZ B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2154

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

01/11/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTOCommunications@hwdpatents.com

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/730,246	Applicant(s) HOLDEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Frantz B. Jean	Art Unit 2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38,40-44,46-50 and 52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38,40-44,46-50,52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

This office action is in response to applicants' response filed on 10/16/07. Claims 1-38, 40-44, 46-50 and 52 are pending in the application. Claims 39, 45 and 51 have been canceled.

The amendment filed on 10/16/07 has been entered in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-35, 41-44, 46-50 and 52 lack application that produces a useful, concrete and tangible result. The claims recite determining, before the status change is replicated on the second messaging system, if the status change is more recent than any other status changes of the message within a log associated with the user on the second messaging system. However, the claims fail to recite the steps that indicate what happens when determination is made that status change is more recent than any other status change and also, the claims fails to recite another step that defines what happens if the change is not more recent.

It must be noted that in determining whether a claim is for "practical application", The focus is not on whether the steps taken to achieve a particular result are useful, tangible and concrete, but rather that final result achieved by the claimed invention is "useful, tangible, and concrete". Correction is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1- 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mousseau et al. hereinafter ("Mousseau") US publication Number 2003/0187938A1 in view of DeLuca et al. ("DeLuca") US patent Number 5,225,826 and Applicants' Background of the Invention "ABI".

As per claim 1, Mousseau teaches a method for replicating message status changes across messaging systems (par 0009; automatically reflect changes on corresponding data item stored at the host system par 0011), comprising: changing a status of a

message for a user on a first messaging system (par 0022); entering the status change into a log associated with the user on the first messaging system (status change changes are communicated with host 10; par 0117-0118; par 0011); communicating the status change entry from the log associated with the user on the first messaging system to a second messaging system, wherein the second messaging system is a replica of the first messaging system (see par 0118; receiving messages within a set of folders at mobile device 24, which will remember message state changes...). Mousseau does not teach determining, before the status change is replicated on the second messaging system, if the status change is more recent than any other status changes of the message within a log associated with the user on the second messaging system. However, DeLuca is directed to variable status receiver. DeLuca system comprises status change of a message to correspond to the new status (i.e. most recent status change) col. 8 lines 49-54; fig 9 and 11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine DeLuca's most recent status change of a message to Mousseau's system to simplify the task of message management. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would be motivated to do so to increase message throughput in Mousseau's system (see DeLuca col. 2 lines 1-12). Furthermore, Mousseau in combination with DeLuca fails to teach that the determination takes place on the second messaging system. It must be noted that determining an event or action on a particular (first or second) messaging system is well known in the art as evidenced by "ABI" (page 2 paragraph 0003) to achieve a well-defined result. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would determine if the status

change is more recent on the second messaging system to ensure consistency for message status changes replicated across the messaging systems.

As per claim 2, Mousseau, DeLuca and ABI (hereinafter the combination) teach the method of claim 1, further comprising entering the status change into the log associated with the user on the second messaging system (a particular system) if the status change is more recent than the any other status changes for the message (ABI par 0003).

As per claim 3, the combination teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising discarding the status change from the second messaging system if the status change is not more recent than the any other status changes for the message (see DeLuca fig 10 conditional status; see also Mousseau par 0115, purging earliest messages).

As per claim 4, the combination teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the communicating step comprises communicating at least a portion (parts of data items) of the log associated with the user on the first messaging system to the second messaging system (see Mousseau, communication between host system 10 and mobile device 24 see par 0011).

As per claim 5, the combination teaches a method of claim 4, wherein the portion comprises status changes entered into the log associated with the user on the first

messaging system since a previous replication (Mousseau, par 0011 and 0022).

As per claim 6, the combination teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining an unread table on the first messaging system, wherein the unread table identifies messages for the user that are unread (DeLuca col. 1 lines 40-43; col. 4 lines 50-56).

As per claim 7, the combination teaches the method of claim 6, wherein the unread table is updated as the messages are read (see DeLuca col. 4 lines 52-53).

As per claim 8, the combination teaches a method of claim 1, wherein the message is an electronic message (Mousseau par 0069, 0090, 0124).

As per claim 9, the combination teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the entering step comprises entering the status change in the log associated with the user on the first messaging system with a corresponding clock time (DeLuca fig 1 element 38) of the first messaging system, and wherein the communicating step comprises communicating the status change and the clock time of the first messaging system to the second messaging system (Mousseau discusses programmable timer in par 0068).

As per claim 10, the combination teaches the method of claim 9, further comprising entering the status change in the log associated with the user on the second messaging

system with the clock time of the first messaging system and a clock time of the second messaging system, if the status change is more recent than any other status changes for the message (DeLuca discusses time clock in fig 1 element 38 and Mousseau discusses programmable timer in par 0068).

As per claim 11, Mousseau teaches a method for replicating message status changes across messaging systems (par 0009; automatically reflect changes on corresponding data item stored at the host system par 0011), comprising: providing a first messaging system having a first set of logs corresponding to a set of users (the host system comprises plurality of folders where data or entries are logged due to some events; the folder contents are mirrored between the two systems par 0011, 0117-1118) wherein the first set of logs includes entries reflecting status changes for electronic messages received by the set of users; communicating the first set of logs entries from the logs associated with the set of users on the first messaging system to a second messaging system having a second set of logs corresponding to the set of users (par 0011 and 0117-0118). Mousseau does not teach determining, on the second messaging system, before the status change is replicated, if the entries within the first set of logs are more recent than existing entries within the second set of logs. However, DeLuca is directed to variable status receiver. DeLuca system comprises status change of a message to correspond to the new status (i.e. most recent entries or status change) col. 8 lines 49-54; fig 9 and 11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine DeLuca's most recent entries (status change) of a

message to Mousseau's system to simplify the task of message management. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would be motivated to do so to increase message throughput in Mousseau's system (see DeLuca col. 2 lines 1-12). Furthermore, Mousseau in combination with DeLuca fails to teach that the determination takes place on the second messaging system. It must be noted that determining an event or action on a particular (first or second) messaging system is well known in the art as evidenced by "ABI" (page 2 paragraph 0003) to achieve a well-defined result. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would determine if the status change is more recent on the second messaging system to ensure consistency for message status changes replicated across the messaging systems.

As per claim 12, the combination teaches the method of claim 11, further comprising entering, into the second set of logs, all entries within the first set of logs that are more recent than the existing entries (par 0011 and 0070).

As per claim 13, the combination teaches the method of claim 11, further comprising discarding, from the second messaging system, any entries within the first set of logs that are not more recent than the existing entries (see DeLuca fig 10 conditional status; see also Mousseau par 0115, purging earliest messages).

As per claim 14, the combination teaches the method of claim 11, wherein the communicating step comprises communicating the entries of the first set of logs that

reflect status changes that occurred since a previous replication (Mousseau, par 0011 and 0022).

As per claim 15, the combination teaches the method of claim 11, further comprising maintaining unread tables on the first messaging system and the second messaging system, wherein the unread table identifies electronic messages for the set of user that are unread, and wherein the unread table is updated as the electronic messages are read (DeLuca col. 1 lines 40-43; col. 4 lines 50-56).

As per claim 16, Mousseau teaches a system for replicating message status changes across messaging systems (par 0009; automatically reflect changes on corresponding data item stored at the host system par 0011), comprising: a log entry system for entering a status change of a message for a user into a log associated with the user on a first messaging system (status change changes are communicated with host 10; par 0117-0118; par 0011); and a replication system for communicating the status change entry from the log associated with user on the first messaging system to a second messaging system, wherein the second messaging system includes a precedence system (see par 0118; receiving messages within a set of folders at mobile device 24, which will remember message state changes...). Mousseau does not teach determining, on the second messaging system, if the status change is more recent than any other status changes of the message within a log associated with the user on the second messaging system. However, DeLuca is directed to variable status receiver.

DeLuca system comprises status change of a message to correspond to the new status (i.e. most recent status change) col. 8 lines 49-54; fig 9 and 11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine DeLuca's most recent status change of a message to Mousseau's system to simplify the task of message management. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would be motivated to do so to increase message throughput in Mousseau's system (see DeLuca col. 2 lines 1-12). Furthermore, Mousseau in combination with DeLuca fails to teach that the determination takes place on the second messaging system. It must be noted that determining an event or action on a particular (first or second) messaging system is well known in the art as evidenced by "ABI" (page 2 paragraph 0003) to achieve a well-defined result. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would determine if the status change is more recent on the second messaging system to ensure consistency for message status changes replicated across the messaging systems.

As per claim 17, the combination teaches the system of claim 16, wherein a log entry system on the second messaging system enters the status change for the message into the log associated with the user on the second messaging system (a particular message system) if the status change is more recent than the any other status changes for the message (ABI par 0003).

As per claim 18, the combination teaches the system of claim 16, wherein the status

change is discarded from the second messaging system if the status change is not more recent than the any other status changes for the message (see DeLuca fig 10 conditional status; see also Mousseau par 0115, purging earliest messages).

As per claim 19, the combination teaches the system of claim 16, further comprising a table maintenance system for maintaining an unread table on the first messaging system that identifies any messages for the user that are unread (DeLuca col. 1 lines 40-43; col. 4 lines 50-56).

As per claim 20, the combination teaches the system of claim 16, further comprising a log purging system for purging the log on the first messaging system of any status changes that are older than a predetermined time limit (see DeLuca fig 10 conditional status; see also Mousseau par 0115, purging earliest messages).

As per claim 21, the combination teaches the system of claim 16, wherein the replication system communicates the status change with a clock time of the first messaging system to the second messaging system (DeLuca discusses time clock in fig 1 element 38 and Mousseau discusses programmable timer in par 0068).

As per claim 22, the combination teaches the system of claim 21, wherein the status change is entered into the log associated with the user on the second messaging system with the clock time of the first messaging system and a clock time of the second

messaging system, if the status change is more recent than any other status changes for the message (DeLuca discusses time clock in fig 1 element 38 and Mousseau discusses programmable timer in par 0068).

As per claim 23, it contains all the limitations discussed above in rejecting claim 16 above. Therefore, it is rejected under the same rationale. Furthermore, DeLuca discloses maintaining an unread table on the first messaging system that identifies any messages for the user that are unread (DeLuca col. 1 lines 40-43; col. 4 lines 50-56).

As per claims 24-28, they have already been discussed above in rejecting claims 2-10, 12-15 and 17-22 above. They are rejected under the same rationale.

As per claims 29-35, they are a program product stored on a recordable medium, which contain the same limitations as discussed above in rejecting the system claim 16-22. Therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 37, 44 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mousseau et al. hereinafter ("Mousseau") US publication Number 2003/0187938A1.

As per claims 37, 44, and 50, Mousseau does not teach the status change is entered into an entry at an end of the log associated with the user on the first messaging system. However, Official notice is taken that entering an entry in the beginning or at the end of a log is well known and recognized in the art to facilitate updating the other

messaging system with the most current information. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would be motivated to do so to facilitate synchronization of the messaging system.

Claims 43 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mousseau et al. hereinafter ("Mousseau") US publication Number 2003/0187938A1 in view of DeLuca et al. ("DeLuca") US patent Number 5,225,826. As per claims 43 and 49, Mousseau does not a table maintenance system for maintaining an unread table on the first messaging system that identifies any messages for the user that are unread. DeLuca teaches maintaining an unread table on the first messaging system that identifies any messages for the user that are unread (DeLuca col. 1 lines 40-43; col. 4 lines 50-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine DeLuca's feature with Mousseau to facilitate message management. One skill artisan at the time of the invention would be motivated to do so to increase message throughput in Mousseau's system (see DeLuca col. 2 lines 1-12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 36, 38-42, 46-48, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mousseau et al. hereinafter ("Mousseau") US publication Number 2003/0187938A1.

As per claims 36, 41, and 47, Mousseau teaches a method for maintaining log chronology for message status changes replicated across messaging systems, comprising: changing a status of a message for a user on a first messaging system (par 0022); entering the status change into a log associated with the user on the first messaging system, wherein the status change is entered into the log along with a clock time (time delay, transmission delay, calendar event) of the first messaging system (status change changes are communicated with host 10; par 0117-0118; par 0011); communicating the status change entry from the log associated with the user on the first messaging system and the clock time of the first messaging system to a second messaging system (see par 0118; receiving messages within a set of folders at mobile device 24, which will remember message state changes...); determining, before a status change is replicated, whether the clock time of the first messaging system is different than a clock time of the second messaging system (see fig 17, 18B, 19B and 20B).; and entering the status change into a log associated with the user on the second messaging system, wherein the status change is entered into the log associated with the user on the second messaging system with the clock time of the first messaging system and a clock time of the second messaging system (Mousseau discusses

calendar events, delay time, delay transmission of folder moves until non-peak times, delay communication, calendar entries on the host and the mobile; see paragraph 0113, 0124, 0129 and 0137-0138; accordingly clock time is implicit in either system to perform those events).

As per claims 38, 42, and 48, Mousseau teaches the method of claim 36, further comprising periodically purging the log associated with the user on the first messaging system (par 0115).

As per claims 40, 46, and 52, Mousseau teaches the method of claim 36, wherein the message is an electronic mail message (par 0069, 0090, and 0124).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/16/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that Mousseau in view of DeLuca and ABI fail to teach determining, before the status change is replicated on the second messaging system, if the status change is more recent than any other status changes of the message within a log associated with the user on the second messaging system. Examiner submits that the combination teaches that feature (see DeLuca) col. 8 lines 49-54; fig 9 and 11) and ABI page 2 paragraph 0003,

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantz B. Jean whose telephone number is 571-272-3937. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6:00 M-f.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:
10/730,246
Art Unit: 2154

Page 17

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Frantz Jean



FRANTZ B. JEAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER